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THIS LOOKS GOOD

SPRAY RING ORGANIZATIONS.

The Extension Conference at Springfield, Massachusetts, held February 23-25, particularly commended the formation of "spray rings" as a worthy piece of extension service. This service has had a large development in Iowa during the past two years. County Agent W. O. Brant in Benton County, Iowa, organized the first spray ring in 1919. It was so successful that fifteen additional rings were organized in this county in 1920, and ten additional counties in Iowa have taken up this project. The method of conducting this work is so well explained in the report of the county agent that we are quoting it in full.

"In 1919 the farm bureau bought a sprayer and put on a series of demonstrations which were widely separated over the county, the whole route covering a distance of 90 miles. These orchards were sprayed three times at a cost of 74 cents per tree and that amount was then charged up to the owners of the orchards. Following this work of 1919 we started in last fall and organized fifteen spray rings.

"In organizing the spray rings a good deal of help was given by the project leaders appointed in the various townships. The procedure was to have project leaders talk the matter up and call a meeting in some central place. If enough men were present at the meeting to form a spray ring it was completed at this meeting. In any case, generally a constitution and by-laws, copy of which is attached, was adopted at this meeting and officers elected. Then later on a full meeting would be called, shares taken in the machine and the organization completed.

"In every case the secretary was made the active manager of the spray ring and either did the spraying himself or hired some man to do the work. We had planned to have junior students from Ames assist in getting these machines started, but due to the fact that our machines did not arrive until too late in the season for the first spray to be put on, this could not be carried out. At the time of the second spray it was too near the end of the school year for the students to come so we had to depend on local help. However, three of us from the office were able to look after the work close by enough so that the second spray was put

on in good shape. The third spray was also applied at the proper time and about half the spray rings put on the fourth spray.

"To get the results of spraying, questionnaires were sent out to all the men whose orchards were sprayed. From these it has been computed that the average cost of spraying, allowing ten per cent depreciation on the machine, was \$18.63 per orchard, and the average value of the fruit as estimated by the orchard owners was \$121.20 per orchard. The average orchard contained about 35 trees and the average cost per tree was about 20 cents for each spray.

"Most of the rings used a machine which has a capacity of five gallons per minute, a two-horse engine and a refiller. Of three different machines used this was found to be the most satisfactory and was capable of taking care of 15 to 23 average orchards and up to one thousand trees. Our rings ranged in size from 600 to 1000 trees and the distance traveled from 18 to 33 miles. As a result of the orchard work this year, we expect to organize at least a dozen spray rings this fall and have in the neighborhood of thirty in operation next year.

"Following is a condensed summary of the work this year.

Number of spray rings organized.....	15
Number of orchards in rings.....	311
Number of trees (approximately).....	12,000
Number of orchards reported results.....	84
<u>Average orchard</u>	
Value of fruit.....	\$ 121.20 per orchard
Value of trees.....	35
Cost of spraying.....	18.63
Profit.....	102.57

"According to the above estimates, all given by the growers, the orchards sprayed have produced \$30,000 worth of fruit over expenses."

"An exhibit of the products of these spray rings was held in the fall. In arranging for this exhibit \$150 in prizes was secured and offered to the spray rings making the best exhibits. Then each spray ring was asked to pay its secretary for two days or whatever time was necessary to collect and set up, a plate of each variety of fruit from every orchard sprayed. As a result of this about fifteen hundred plates of fruit were displayed carrying the name of the grower on every plate and the variety name wherever known.

"Professor Harrington of Ames spent two days judging this exhibit and identifying varieties for all growers who wished his help.

"By-laws of the Benton County spray rings:

- (1) The purpose of this organization shall be to work together for the purpose of bettering the fruit in the orchard of the respective members.

- (2) The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice-President and a Secretary-Treasurer. These officers shall constitute an Executive Committee. The Secretary's duties shall be to arrange for meetings, purchase materials and equipment and with the help of the President and Vice-President, hire such help as may be needed to carry out the purpose of the organization. He shall be compensated at the rate of fifty cents per hour for the time spent in the discharge of his duties and be allowed eight cents per mile for the use of his car.
- (3) Shares: Shares in this organization shall be at the rate of \$20 - These shares are transferable, but the transfer must be approved by the Executive Committee of the organization. The organization, however, agrees to purchase the share of any member in case he moves away and is prohibited by the Association from selling his share to any other person. Shares are assumed to depreciate at the rate of 10 per cent per year.
- (4) Spraying: The spraying shall be paid for by each member in proportion to the amount of material used on his farm, and the amount of time spent by the machine and the operators.
- (5) Amendments: These by-laws may be amended at any called meeting of the organization, notice in writing furnished a week previous to all members."

County Agent Section

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